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# Newsletter 27

ANU Indonesia Project

January-June 2019



## HIGHLIGHT

His Excellency Mr Thomas Lembong, Chairman of the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board and Indonesian former Minister of Trade, delivered a public lecture on stronger business partnership between Australia and Indonesia on 25 June. Mr Lembong has also kindly made time for an interview with ANU's Professor Hal Hill for New Mandala. [Watch](#) the public lecture and [listen](#) to the podcast (transcript available).



## High Level Policy Dialogue

The 12th High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) was held on 29 April in Jakarta. This year's focus was on demographic change, economic transformation and the fiscal implications. The HLPD was opened by the Indonesian Minister of Finance HE Sri Mulyani Indrawati and the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia HE Mr Gary Quinlan. Former Vice President Professor Boediono delivered the keynote address on policy making process in Indonesia in the last two decades.

[Read more >>](#)

## ACTIVITIES



### Forum Kajian Pembangunan Roadshow

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This year's Forum Kajian Pembangunan (FKP) Roadshow was held in January in Ambon and Jayapura and raised the issue of food security as its main theme.



### **Peter McCawley receives the Order of Australia »**

Congratulations to Peter McCawley who, on Australia Day, has been appointed as Member (AM) of the Order of Australia for his significant service to the Asia-Pacific region through economic advisory roles.

## **RESEARCH RELATED**

The April 2019 issue (55.1) of the ***Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies (BIES)*** opened with Adam Triggs, Febrio Kacaribu and Jiao Wang's Survey of Recent Developments on risks, resilience and reforms regarding Indonesia's financial system. Other articles discussed the effects of grade retention on later educational attainment, artificial expenditure movement in national socioeconomic data, and the reduction of agricultural income vulnerability through agroforestry training.

To read, submit or subscribe to *BIES*, visit Taylor & Francis Online. You can also follow the journal on Twitter and Facebook.

The 2019 Editors' Choice Collection comprises six outstanding free-to access articles. The collection gives a glimpse into why *BIES* has a longstanding reputation for publishing quality research. It features a detailed political analysis by **Tom Power** on Jokowi's authoritarian turn and Indonesia's democratic decline, as well as an in-depth article identifying strategies to improve tax compliance, by **Arifin Rosid, Chris Evans and Binh Tran-Nam**. Other articles in the collection examine the determinants of premarital sex and its effect on the age of first marriage; investigate asking-priceformation across the Indonesian archipelago, including previously unstudied regional property markets; explore the nexus between sustainability and economic growth, using an inclusive wealth framework covering resources and biodiversity; and assess value chain connectivity using the conceptual framework of 'unbundling'.

### **Research Travel Grants**

There are five recipients of this year's ANU Indonesia Project's Research Travel Grants: Elin Buchanan from the University of Adelaide, Samantha Chapman from the University of New South Wales, Nicholas Dobrijevic from the University of Sydney, Maxine Williams from the University of Sydney and Bradley Wood from The Australian National University. Their research topics include stunting in Indonesia, youth perspectives on nationalism and Islam, and housing and its relation to the state, capital and urban space in Jakarta.



## OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



A group of ANU Indonesianists. This photo was taken after Anne Booth presented an Indonesia Study Group seminar in May this year.

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Ross McLeod and Peter McCawley wrote fascinating personal recollections of their life journeys from college students until they become world renown Indonesianists.



Ross McLeod's story: [Discovering Indonesia: a very unplanned tour. A personal recollection.](#)



Peter McCawley's story: [ANU and Asia: a life between town and gown. A personal recollection.](#)

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Umbu Raya Kedamaki submitted his PhD thesis in June 2019. Raya's thesis is titled *Social classes, institutional changes and the livelihood of the poor* and he was supervised by Budy Resosudarmo.

Deasy Pane has completed external review without revision for her PhD thesis. Deasy's thesis is titled *Does export experience improve firm performance? Evidence from Indonesia*. She was supervised by Arianto Patunru. Deasy was the 2018 recipient of the Hadi Soesastro Prize.

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Sarah Dong presented at a workshop in Universitas Negeri Solo (UNS), Indonesia, on 8 April. Sarah together with Tri Mulyaningsih presented on the effect of university targeted scholarship on student performance and impact evaluation technique. Many students and faculty at UNS attended the workshop. This workshop was followed with a focus group discussion on 9 April with the university students about the scholarship.

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In February, all of ANU Indonesia Project academics including Hal Hill and Peter McCawley met with ADB Executives visiting ANU and discussed the current economic developments in Indonesia.

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Firman Witoelar received the **Asia Pacific Innovation Program (APIP) Grant Scheme 3** (Research Development) for his research on *Long term human capital consequences of malaria exposure in the Pacific*.

Firman also received the APIP Grant Scheme (Research Development) for his research on *Strengthening Australia-Indonesia capacity in disability and poverty measurements and policies*, with Mandy Yap (Lead) and Sharon Bessell.

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There were two policy engagements with DFAT this semester. The first one was on 1 February. Led by an external monitoring and evaluation expert, the Indonesia Project developed a monitoring and evaluation framework with DFAT. Once implemented, the Indonesia Project will better demonstrate causality of the Project's activities and outputs and their use in influencing policy dialogue and development. The second one was held on 16 April. The Indonesia Project's annual Aid Quality Review was conducted at DFAT. The Project provided DFAT with its newly developed gender strategy.

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Read [more news](#) on staff appointments, PhD student supervisions, publications and media mentions.

## FORUM KAJIAN PEMBANGUNAN

The FKP continues to be the forum for discussing a wide array of topics, from monetary policy, energy, food and agricultural policies, mangrove conservation, and small enterprises, amongst others. The FKP also presented an opportunity to introduce new analytical methods to inform policy making, such as Professor Douglas Laxton's seminar on inflation forecast-targeting application for Indonesia.

There were 18 Forum Kajian Pembangunan Seminars (FKP) held in the first semester of 2019, with 44 speakers presenting and a third of these speakers were female. Some of the hosts this semester include the World Resources Institute Indonesia, ANU Indonesia Project, Bank Indonesia Institute, Lembaga Demografi Universitas Indonesia, Lembaga Pengembangan Ekonomi dan Masyarakat (LPEM FEB UI), and new for this year, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade. In total, more than 900 attendance were recorded for the FKP.

## INDONESIA STUDY GROUP

Eleven Indonesia Study Group (ISG) seminars were held in the first semester of 2019. The topics discussed varied: from Indonesian regional music, the impact of e-commerce, to presidential elections and earthquake risks. There were 19 speakers in total, four international speakers and seven female speakers. The average attendance was 30 people for each seminar, of which around a third were female participants. Read more about this semester's [ISG](#) and you can also [download and listen](#) to various presentation materials.

## VISITING FELLOWSHIP

Nathanael Sumaktoyo from the University of Notre Dame and Ayu Pratiwi from University of Turku are the recipients for the 2019 ANU Indonesia Project Visiting Fellowships. Ayu will be researching the effects of migration and gender on diffusion and adoption of sustainability agricultural production in Indonesia. Nathanael just finished his research visit to ANU and while visiting ANU, Nathanael met with the Indonesianists to discuss various aspects of his research. He also presented at the Indonesia Study Group with the topic titled *Double minority candidates and Muslim voting behaviour: evidence from Indonesia*.

The Dean of Faculty of Economics and Business Universitas Indonesia (FEB-UI), Professor Ari Kuncoro, visited ANU Indonesia Project and the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics (ACDE) from 14 to 19 June 2019. The main goal of the visit is to strengthen collaboration between the Faculty of Economics and Business Universitas Indonesia and ANU Indonesia Project and ACDE.

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A complete version of this newsletter is available on the [blog](#).

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS IN 2019**

20 August      The 13th Sadli Lecture

21 August      Mbyarto Public Policy Forum

28 August      Update book launch in Sydney with SSEAC

6-7 September    The 37th Indonesia Update. From stagnation to  
regression? Indonesian democracy after twenty years

November      BIES Dialogue and Forums

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